



Presented May 5, 2014

## **Town Council Report for April 2014 Parks and Recreation Activity Highlights:**

### *Zionsville Parks Golf Course (ZGC)*

- This month our ZGC reported that the gross operating profits recorded for the month of April were ~\$18,434. April can be quite dependent on the weather and hence variable, Over six years of records we have ranged from a low of ~\$9,262 (last year) to a high of ~\$28,974 (in 2012, and also the first year our new "cart rates came into play). While this past April's numbers were our third highest recorded, they also fell nearly exactly on the average for the six years, indicating that the 6 full days of closure and several partial days still did have a significant impact.

### *Events/Activities in the Parks*

- As Spring finally arrived, several events and activities have begun occurring in our Zionsville parks. Several of these are events and activities with which we have direct sponsorship or some other involvement, along with associated significant investments of park resources. Others are events that while not involving us quite as directly, still take significant resources as we ready specific parks for these community activities. Most of these other activities would likely have no place to hold their events if not for our parks and their features. Following, while not all inclusive for the month, is sampling of just a few of these to give a taste...
- With the Assistance of State Senator Delph and the State of Indiana Nursery, Eagle Scout Candidate Jared Nielson worked with Park Staff on a native restoration planting of 100 tree seedlings (50 Tulip Trees and 50 Gray Dogwood) at Starkey Park. Mar Nielson and ~50 volunteers worked for about 2 hours to get these in the ground as part of one of the Parks Arbor Day activities.
- In another of our cooperative Arbor Day/Earth Day activity that same day, ~10 members of the Worth While Kids 4H Club worked on a native plant restoration project with 15 Swamp White Oaks donated by Bartlett Tree Service. Park staff worked with these kids to get the seedlings into Elm Street Green, Turkey Foot, and Creekside Parks.
- That same weekend the annual Z-Run was hosted in our parks with 450 runners/walkers, plus additional spectators for about 2.5 hrs. This event uses Mulberry Fields Park and runs much of the internal trails in that park before moving out onto our Zionsville Rail Trail for the bulk of the remainder of their course.
- On the weekend after Easter was the annual Kite Day, also at Mulberry Fields Park. This attracted ~300 participants for 3 hrs and is an annual fundraiser of the Zionsville Boys & Girls Club, who really has no other feasible place to hold the event.
- In a new endeavor, our local American Legion held a respectful event honoring the unclaimed remains of an Indiana soldier before they were transported for interment. This was held at our American Legion Park and attracted ~250 people for about 1.5 hrs.

### *Other Highlighted Matters*

- The Parks and Recreation Department is proud to announce that we have officially hired Mindy Murdock to be the new Department Naturalist. Mindy comes to our Parks after spending 13 years with Cleveland Metro Parks. Most recently Mindy served as the Naturalist II at the North Chagrin Nature Center where she was directly and significantly involved with their summer camp program, the NestWatch program, and their early childhood education program. Mindy has a BS in Zoology from Kent State University where she graduated Magna cum Laude and an MS in Biology from the University of Akron. Mindy will be joining us in late May and will be focused thru the summer on getting to know our community and working with Zionsville's Park Superintendent Matt Dickey and the Park Board to create a strategic plan for the Nature Center for 2015.